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Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

v. 1. 1850

v. 2. 1854

v. 3. 1855

v. 4. 1858

v. 5. 1859

v. 6. 1861

v. 7. 1867

v. 8. 1871

v. 9. 1885

v. 10. 1887

v. 11. 1888

v. 12. 1891

v. 13. 1892

v. 14. 1893

v. 15. 1895

v. 16. 1896

v. 17. 1897

v. 18. 1898

v. 19. 1899

v. 20. 1900







MINUTES
 OF THE
EIGHTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
 OF THE
Muscle Shoals Baptist Association,
 HELD WITH
Okolona Baptist Church,
LAWRENCE COUNTY, ALABAMA,
 Sept. 28th, 29th, 30th, and Oct. 1st, 1899.

Officers.

ELD. W. T. COBBS, Moderator, New Decatur, Ala.
 ELD. JOS. SHACKELFORD, Clerk, Trinity, Ala.
 W. D. QUINN, Treasurer, Moulton, Ala.

Executive Board, Moulton, Ala.

A. W. Bailey,	Frank Caruth,	J. M. Shoemaker,
J. N. Bragg,	H. B. Irwin,	J. H. Wear,
J. T. Wallace,	J. G. Orr,	J. C. Tidwell,
Dr. J. M. Kitchens,	Jourdan White,	J. A. Walker.

W. D. IRWIN, Treasurer.

Board of Ministerial Education, Decatur.

J. Gunn, O. F. Wright, Jos. Shackelford, J. A. Thomason,
 J. G. Orr, O. T. Burt, Tobe Williams.

HARTSELLE, ALABAMA.
 THE ALABAMA ENQUIRER PRINT,
 1899.

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MINUTES.

The delegates from the churches comprising the Eightieth Annual Session of the MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS, convened with the Okolona Baptist Church, Lawrence county, Ala., on Thursday, September 28th, 1890, at 11, a. m.

Eld. Jos. Shackelford preached the Introductory Sermon; text, 1st Timothy, 3: 15: Subject—"The Church of Christ."

After the sermon there was an intermission of one hour. Prayer by Eld. F. C. David.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association assembled at the appointed time. The religious services were conducted by Elder R. L. Quiun, after which the former Moderator, Elder W. T. Cobbs, called the Association to order. Elder Jos. Shackelford, the former Clerk, took his place at the Clerk's table. The Moderator appointed Bros. J. E. Weaver, J. I. Stockton and A. W. Briscoe, as Reading Clerks.

The letters from the churches were then read and names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Bethel—W. H. Lawrence.

Bethany—Letter—no delegates.

Central, New Decatur—O. F. Wright.

Center Grove—W. H. Smith, J. A. Crawford.

Danville—Jos. Shackelford, J. L. Richey.

Enon—J. T. Wallace, F. N. McMillon, J. M. West.

Falkville—W. T. Cobbs.

Gum Spring (L)—W. H. Murton, W. T. Zill, J. T. Randolph.

Harmony—W. W. Tucker, Clarence Gilespeie, Jno. S. Howell.

Hopewell—Letter—no delegates.

Hillsboro—J. S. Nelson.

Hartselle—F. C. David, J. D. McClanahan.

Lebanon—W. H. Junkins.

Macedonia (M)—W. B. Brothers.

Macedonia (L)—L. C. Chénault.

Moulton—T. V. Shoemaker, J. C. Bragg.

Moulton Heights—C. C. Hall.

Mt. Hope—E. J. Barkedale, J. S. Gibson, E. B. Little.

Mt. Zion (L)—C. C. Willis, John L. Richey.

Mt. Nebo (L)—J. W. Horton.

Mt. Pisgah—G. H. Hughes, R. B. Day.

New Hope—J. W. Horton, J. R. Blackman.

New Friendship—W. E. Wright, John Widener.

New Centre—J. H. Holloway, Henry Blankenship.
 New Decatur, 1st—Dr. Wm. McMillon, Luther McMillon.
 Okolona—G. W. Bond, J. D. Hagood, L. C. Stubbs.
 Pleasant Grove—D. Montgomery, J. J. Churchwell.
 Russellville—A. W. Briscoe, J. M. Ormond, C. G. Lynch.
 Rocky Creek—J. P. Scruggs.
 Salem—T. P. Key, James Pickens.
 Somerville—J. E. Weaver.
 Shady Grove—J. W. Livingston, J. W. Waldrop,
 Pleasant Hill (M)—A. G. Stewart.
 Town Creek—R. T. Wear, R. L. Quinn, L. A. Wear.
 Trinity—J. I. Stockton, W. M. Jolly.

The following churches were not represented either by delegates or letter: Bellview, Blue Springs, Cave Springs, Decatur, 1st; Friendship, Gum Spring (M), Darlington, Union Grove, Mt. Zion (M), Mt. Nebo (M), New Prospect, Prospect, Pleasant Hill (M).

The following members of the Executive Board were present, who are ex-officio members of the Association; H. B. Irwin, W. D. Irwin, Jourdan White, J. G. Orr, and J. N. Bragg.

The letters having been read, the Moderator announced that the delegates whose names were enrolled would proceed to prepare their ballots for Moderator and Clerk of the Association; and he appointed Bros. H. B. Irwin and R. B. Day, as tellers to hold the election.

During the counting of the votes, the brethren sang a few hymns.

The tellers announced, as the result of the election, that Elder W. T. Cobbs was elected Moderator, and Elder Jos. Shackelford, Clerk.

The Moderator returned his thanks to the brethren for the honor conferred and asked their assistance in the discharge of his duties as presiding officer.

On Motion of Bro. F. C. David, a committee on the Ministers' Institute Work was appointed, consisting of Brethren F. C. David, J. I. Stockton, and A. W. Briscoe.

Order of Business.

On motion, the order of business, as printed in the minutes of last year, was made the order of business for this session.

The Moderator announced the following Chairmen of standing committees in the place of those absent: On Temperance, J. T. Richey; on Foreign Missions, R. T. Wear.

There were no petitionary letters.

The following brethren were appointed on committees as follows:

Finance Committee—H. B. Irwin, G. H. Hughes, J. G. Orr.

Devotional Exercises—Pastor and Deacons of Okolona church, and Brethren R. B. Day and Wm. Jolly.

Correspondents.

Eld. J. R. Nesmith was received as a correspondent from Colbert Association. Bro. J. W. Sandlin representing the State Board of Missions.

Visiting Brethren.

Bro. J. M. Roberts, of Colbert Association, and Eld. J. S. Crosslin, of Waco, Texas, accepted the invitation made to visiting brethren to take seats with us.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 9, A. M. to-morrow. Prayer by Eld. J. R. Nesmith.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, September 29, 1899.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The devotional exercises were conducted by Bro. J. L. Richey.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following brethren to fill vacancies on standing committees:

Associational Missions—W. C. Wright, Willis Brothers, J. S. Howel.

Foreign Missions—R. T. Wear, C. C. Hall.

Orphan's Home—A. W. Briscoe, J. S. Gibson.

Temperance—J. L. Richey, C. G. Lynch.

He also announced the following committees:

State of Religion—J. O. A. Pace, W. H. Murton, J. M. West.

Deceased Ministers—J. E. Weaver, R. B. Day, J. T. Wallace.

Documents—J. R. Blackman, W. H. Junkins, J. W. Livingston.

Report of Board of Trustees.

The report of the Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School was read by the Clerk. On motion of Bro. C. G. Lynch, the report on education was also read, and on motion to adopt, the two reports were discussed by Bros. Jos. Shackelford, C. G. Lynch and J. P. Scruggs. On motion of Bro. R. T. Wear, the subject of Ministerial Education was taken up in connection with the two reports already read and discussed, and the report on Ministerial Education was read by Bro. E. J. Barksdale; also, the report of the Board of Ministerial Education was read with the report of the Treasurer of that Board. The whole subject of education was now before the Association, embracing the school at Mountain View, Education, Ministerial and otherwise, and the Board of Ministerial Education. Different phases of the subject were discussed by the following brethren:

L. A. Wear, F. C. David, C. G. Lynch, J. S. Gibson, and J. I. Stockton.

Bro. Jos. Shackelford explained about the debt of the Board of Ministerial Education, and took up pledges for Ministerial Education. The entire subject was postponed until the afternoon session.

The Moderator announced the following

Committee on Nominations—E. J. Barksdale, O. F. Wright and J. D. McClanahan.

On motion, adjourned for 1½ hours. Prayer by Bro. Crosslin.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. M. Roberts, of Colbert Association.

Delayed Letters.

Delayed letters were read and names of delegates enrolled. (See list of delegates, Central, (New Decatur) and Pleasant Grove churches.)

The subject of education was then taken up and the following report adopted.

School at Mountain View.

Following is the report of the Board of Trustees of the School at Mountain View, near Trinity, Morgan county, Alabama:

TO THE MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Since your last session, quite a disaster has befallen our school. On last Christmas the school building was burned; everything in it was consumed, except an organ, one stove and some chairs, belonging to the two Literary Societies. The remainder of the session was taught in the Baptist Church and Masonic Hall in Danville. Our enrollment last session was 81. It would have been much larger had we not met with this disaster, as we had the promise of more students after the holidays. The citizens of Danville did not think they were able to replace the building, or to contribute to its rebuilding. The Board of Trustees had several offers made to them to remove the school. Finally it was decided to remove the Institution and the Board accepted the offer made by the citizens of Trinity and surrounding neighborhood, which was a subscription of about 12 acres of land, and a school building worth, perhaps, three or four hundred dollars, and about \$800 in money and work.

In June, last, the school was located at Mountain View, near Trinity, Morgan county, Ala. It is a most eligible location, on a mountain, with pure air and pure water, convenient to the railroad

and within six miles of the Decatur.

The old school building, formerly the Grange Hall, which was donated by Bro. J. Gunn, with three acres of land, has been thoroughly repaired and painted, and is now a handsome and comfortable building.

The school was opened on the 11th of September, with an enrollment of 44. We expect this to increase very soon. It will take all the money contributed by the people of Trinity and vicinity to pay for repairs of the old building, with the additions necessary to be made, and to buy school desks. The building which we are now using for school purposes, we design making a chapel and in order to make our school a success, we must erect a school building proper, and also, a boarding house. The building we propose to erect will cost at least \$2,500, perhaps \$3,000. The boarding house will cost at least \$2,000. With a total cost of \$5,000 we can put up these buildings. The Baptist of North Alabama can surely contribute this amount for such a laudable purpose. The Board of Trustees presents this matter to your honorable body, and most respectfully request you to give it your serious consideration. This school can be made an instrument of great usefulness if the Baptists will rally around it and give it their patronage and their contributions. Muscle Shoals Association ought to take special interest in this school. It is within her bounds. We ought to get at least \$2,000 of the \$5,000 needed from the Baptists of this Association. The Board has appointed Rev. J. I. Stockton as an agent, to raise this money, who has the authority to appoint sub agents in each of the three associations. We trust that you will kindly receive him and contribute liberally to this cause.

The Board calls the attention of the Association to the fact that the time of three of the Trustees, elected by you, expires with this session and it will be necessary to fill their places, either by their re-election or the selection of others. The names of these Trustees are A. W. Bailey, Dr. John P. Hodges and A. L. Moody.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. G. ORR, President of Board.

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Sec'y.

Report on Education.

Your Committee on Education report as follows:

The spirit of education is abroad in the land. There are more educational institutions now in our country than there has ever been before. Our common schools are increasing in number and in efficiency because we have a larger number of efficient teachers. schools for higher education are also more numerous than they were ten years ago. If young men and young women are not educated now it will not be because the facilities for giving an education are wanting. The boy or girl that does not get an education

in this age will be left behind in the world's progress and they may expect nothing else than to be hewers of wood and drawers of water to their more fortunate fellows who have prepared themselves for the exigencies of life by securing an education. It is important for our children to have an education, but it is far more important that they have the right kind of an education. Schools that seek only to improve the mind and give but little attention to the training of the heart and the moral character, are of but little worth. Christians should have Christian schools. It is all important that our children should be taught that to "Love God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man." This includes the teaching of the word of God, and the moral law which that word contains; and this can only be consistently done in a Christian school. Baptists should have Baptist schools; not that they may teach their peculiar doctrines in them, but because they throw around their children that influence which will tend to make them moral and, also, believers in our doctrines.

Denominational schools are necessary to preserve our denominational character and call forth our denominational pride. The Baptists have ever been the friends and patrons of education. The Universities and Colleges in the United States that have been built up and supported by Baptists are witnesses of this truth. Almost every state has one or more Universities or Colleges that have been founded by Baptists. The existence of these institutions of learning shows that our people in the past have thought on this subject. They would not have spent so much money in building up these institutions of learning if they had not thought them a necessity, and that they would be productive of great good. If these Baptist schools were necessary then, they are necessary now. State schools can never fill their place. If we need Baptist Colleges we also need Baptist High Schools, which are auxiliary to the colleges.

Your committee would especially call the attention of this Association to a Baptist school in your midst, and which belongs in part to this Association. We refer to the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School, now located at Mountain View, near Trinity. This is the only Baptist school in the Tennessee River valley. It should be supported by the Baptists of North Alabama. It has met with reverses; its buildings at Danville, where it was formerly located, were burned last Winter. It is now at a new home; not such, however, as it needs; not such as the Baptists can give it if they will open their hearts and their purses to the call of the Trustees of this school for help to build a new house. If this school is not just such as you would have it, you can make it so by sending your boys and girls to it to be educated, and by contributing liberally to build such houses as the school needs, and to purchase such apparatus as will enable it to compete

with other schools. This school is most eligibly located, both as to convenience of access, and as to health. We would most earnestly urge the brethren and sisters of this Association to patronize this school, and also to contribute of their means to enable the Board of Trustees to build.

We would also recommend to our people, Howard College, at East Lake, and the Judson, at Marion, as Baptist Institutions worthy of their patronage. Both of these Institutions belong to the Baptist State Convention of Alabama. Recently, we rejoice to say, both of them have been relieved from oppressive debts by the liberality of Alabama Baptists. They are without endowment and have to be sustained by the patronage which they receive. We believe that they should be patronized by Baptists in preference to the State schools. If Baptists do not patronize their own institutions, how can they be sustained? We cannot expect those not Baptists to do it. We owe it to ourselves and to these institutions which we, as a denomination, have founded, to give them a hearty support. If we, as Baptists, fail to foster these schools; if we fail to stand by them, and permit them to go down for want of patronage, we will be guilty of a great wrong to them, and will bring disgrace and shame upon the Baptist name.

But we look for better things from our people. Let us, as an Association, rally around our school at Mountain View; let us send our boys and girls there to be educated, and let us help to put up a good school building and dormitories and make it a school that shall be second to none of its grade in the State.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jos. Shackelford, } Committee.
J. S. Gibson, }

Report of Board of Ministerial Education.

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your Board of Ministerial Education has had as beneficiaries, during the past year, Bros. A. W. Briscoe and J. L. Richey, both of whom attended our school at Danville, during the past session. Owing to the fact that they did not enter the school for sometime after the session commenced, they did not quite complete their course in that school and did not graduate. The Board appropriated \$75.00 to Bro. J. L. Richey and \$75.00 to Bro. A. W. Briscoe. The amount pledged at the last Association and paid in at the Association was \$139.52, but as there were some old pledges not sent up, and some churches did not pledge, but were in the habit of paying something to this fund, it was thought that we could safely rely on \$150.00, so we appropriated that amount to these two brethren. The churches, however have not paid their pledges promptly and money has failed to come in from sources that we fully expected that it would come. The result is,

that for the first time the present Board has to report a debt. It owes Bro. Richey \$79.05, and Bro. A. W. Briscoe \$48.77. There is also an additional amount of \$8.74 due by Bro. Richey to parties who furnished him with necessities, expecting that the Board would pay it. Last year your Board appropriated \$100 to Bro. Richey, but most of this was paid out of funds collected at the last Association and some collected since. The small amount raised at our last association for ministerial education, and the failure of many churches to send up their pledges, accounts for the deficit. It will take at least \$100 to pay the Board out of debt, in addition to what we may reasonably expect the churches to send up to this Association in cash for ministerial education. It will take fully \$100 to support a young minister at school for one nine months session. In addition to this, the Association expected to pay one-half of his regular tuition. The teachers ought not to be expected to give all the tuition. In paying Bros. Richey and Briscoe we have made no allowance for one-half of their tuition, which the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Collegiate Institute asks us to pay, but we include it in the \$100 of indebtedness, and leave the matter with the Association.

The Board has no application for assistance from any young minister.

The report of the Treasurer is herewith presented as a part of this report, which will show the amounts collected and expended.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Sec'y.

J. G. ORR, President.

Report of Treas. of Board of Ministerial Education.

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Treasurer,

In Account with BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

1898.

DR.

Sept. 28.	To balance on hand	\$ 97
Sept. 30,	To Cash from R. L. Quinn	2 50
Sept. 30,	" " Moulton Sunday School	2 50
Sept. 30,	" " G. H. Hughes, 1.00; Sim Orr, 1.00	2 00
Sept. 30,	" " Frank Orr, 1.00;	
	Hat Collection at Ass'n, 3.77	4 77
Sept. 30,	" " J. A. Thomason, 5.00;	
	Cen. Ch., N. Decatur 10.00	15 00
Oct. 13,	" " W. D. Irwin, Treas. Ass'n	34 98
Dec. 1,	" " Wm. Childs, 1.00; W. W.	
	Orr, for Hopewell church, 1.00	2 00
—	" " Miss Minnie Orr	1 00
	Amount forwarded	65.72

TREASURER'S REPORT, [CONTINUED.]

1899.

DR.

		To Amount Brought Forward	\$ 65.72
Feb'y. 1,		To Cash from Cen. Church and S. S., New Decatur	10 00
March —	" "	Hopewell church, in provisions	4 00
Mar. 13,	" "	Moulton church and S. S.	7 00
Mar. 15,	" "	Jos. Shackelford, pledge	5 00
April 13,	" "	Town Creek Church and S. S.	10 20
April 12,	" "	Mt. Hope Ch. 2.50;	
		Macedonia, (F) 2.65	5 15
April 1 st ,	" "	Hillsboro church	3 37
May 14,	" "	Russellville S. S.	5 00
	" "	First Church, New Decatur	5 00
July —	" "	Danville church, per J. Shackelford	5 00

Total 125.44
Balance due Treasurer 2.68

\$128.12

1898.

CR.

Sept. 30,	By Am't. Paid	A. W. Briscoe	\$ 5 00
Oct. 14,	" "	J. L. Richey, per Freeman	11 15
Oct. 14,	" "	J. L. Richey	5 00
Oct. 14,	" "	A. W. Briscoe, board	14 34
Nov. 23,	" "	A. W. Briscoe	3 00

1899.

Feb. 4,	" "	J. L. Richey, per J. G. Orr	12 40
Feb. 4,	" "	J L Richey	4 00
Feb. 4,	" "	A W Briscoe, board	6 00
Mar. 13,	" "	J L Richey, provisions, Hopewell	4 00
Mar. 14,	" "	J L Richey	5 60
Mar. 14,	" "	J L Richey, meal	70
April 14,	" "	J L Richey	5 00
May 6,	" "	J L Richey	2 00
May 19,	" "	J L Richey	5 00
May 23,	" "	J L Richey, per J G Orr	5 15
May 23,	" "	A W Briscoe, board	13 13
	" "	A W Briscoe, board	2 00
	" "	for postage	25
	" "	A W Briscoe, board	5 00
	" "	Rollins, for wood	5 00
May 19,	" "	A W Briscoe, board	15 00

Total \$128.12

Respectfully Submitted,

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Treasurer.

After the adoption of the above reports, Bro. C. G. Lynch took the floor and earnestly urged the Association to pay the debt of the Board of Ministerial Education, and called for pledges, to be paid within 30 days. The following churches, through their delegates responded, and also the following brethren and sisters. Many of them paid and are so marked.

Pledges and Collections

FOR DEBT OF THE BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Russellville church.....	\$5 00	Shady Grove church. paid	\$2 50
Trinity church.....	paid 5 00	Rock Creek.....	2 00
Mt. Hope, per J S Gibson...	2 50	Central, New Decatur ..	" 2 00
Liberty church.....	2 00	Moulton Heights	" 2 00
Enon church.....	2 00	Hillsboro church.....	" 2 50
Bethany church.....	paid 2 00	First Church, Decatur, ..	2 00
Town Creek church.....	" 5 00	Harmony	2 00
Mt. Pisgah church	" 2 00	J C Bragg.....	" 50
C. G. Lynch.....	" 1 00	J M Roberts.....	1 00
T. Campbell.....	" 1 00	C Gillespie.....	" 1 00
Jos. Saint.....	" 75	J E Weaver.....	" 1 00
Rev. G. L. Crow.....	" 1 00	M H Golden.....	" 1 00
J. W. Horton.....	" 1 00	J W Horton.....	" 1 00
Lebanon church	" 1 00	J O A Pace.....	" 50
R L Quinn	" 2 00	A W Briscoe.....	" 5 00
Hartselle church.....	2 00	Mrs. Mat Lynch	" 25
J L Nesmith.....	" 25	Mrs. E A Quinn.....	" 1 00
Phill Lynch.....	" 50	Mrs. Hellen Lynch.....	" 50
O F Wright.....	" 1 00	E J Barksdale.....	" 50
J P Scruggs.....	" 50	J W Sandlin.....	" 5 00
J J Churchwell.....	" 1 00	W T Cobb	" 1 00
Mrs. Alice Simpson, pd. 50c	1 00	R B Day	" 1 00
Mt. Zion Ch., old pledge, pd. 3	00	W H Richey.....	50
J S Gibson.....	50	Collections.....	72
Mt. Zion, by W H Richey ..	1 00	A Y Stewart	" 25
Broadus Pace	" 25	Sister Reed	" 25
Bethel church.....	2 00	H B Irwin.....	" 25
J W Owen.....	" 1 00	Sister Stubbs.....	" 25
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$47.25		\$86.97

Total \$84.22, of which amount \$59.50 has been paid and marked so, a part of which has been paid since the Association.

The churches and brethren who have not paid when the manuscript of the minutes goes to the printer will please send on their money and they will be reported at the next Association as paid.

CLERK.

Pledges for Ministerial Education.

FOR NEXT YEAR.

Center Grove.....	\$ 1 00
Moulton church.....	10 00
Town Creek.....	5 00
Harmony church.....	2 00
Mt. Hope.....	5 00
Mt. Zion.....	2 00
Total.....	<u>\$25 00</u>

This amount cannot support a young minister at school. If the churches that did not pledge will inform the Secretary of the board what we may expect from them, the board may assist some young man, but under the present prospects, the board can do nothing except to pay half of the tuition of some young minister.

Resolutions.

The following preamble and resolutions, with reference to the Collegiate Institute, at Mountain View, was offered by Eld. F. C. David, and unanimously adopted.

To the Baptist of the Muscle Shoals Association:

DEAR BRETHREN:—In view of the deplorable loss which we have sustained in the destruction of our school buildings at Danville, and

Whereas, the board of trustees has removed the school to another location, Mountain View, near Trinity, Morgan county, and has determined to erect a new building, and

Whereas, the crying need now, is help, therefore,

Resolved, by this Association, that as an Association, we come speedily and liberally to the support of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School.

2nd. That we contribute to its building fund, and that together with Eld. J. I. Stockton, its financial agent, let each and all of us be agents in securing means to erect a large and handsome building on Mountain View for our school.

Report on Ministerial Education.

Your Committee begs to submit the following:

By reference to the minutes of the previous sessions of the body we find that the brethren appointed to prepare reports on this important subject have taken the utmost pains to produce such arguments as they deemed necessary to enlighten and also to enlist a hearty co-operation in all the churches in carrying forward this great and noble work—the work of providing means to aid our young ministers in securing an education, as God called them to the work of preaching His gospel.

It occurs to the minds of your committee, brethren, that the arguments produced in this Association, at stated times for more than fifty years, by some of the most pious, the most self-sacrificing, the most learned and devout servants of God, that perhaps, ever labored within the bounds of the Muscle Shoals association, and many of whom have passed to their rewards on high; many still surviving, are so overwhelmingly convincing as to our duty in this respect, that this association and all the churches that compose it might rise up as with the voice of one man, confess that we knew our duty but did it not. Would not this be a good time to take the admonition of the Apostle Paul to the church at Rome, found in 12th Romans, where he said: "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice wholly acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." We recommend that we have such a renewing of our minds here to-day—that all the messengers present, together with the pastors of the churches, do resolve that we will do the best we can for this cause whilst here and will return home determined to co-operate with our pastors in securing the hearty co-operation of all the membership in giving aid to this grand work.

In case we do this in faithfulness, we believe that such an offering will be carried up to the next meeting of this body as will be acceptable and well pleasing to God, and such an one in amount as, perhaps, this Association has never received at any one session in all the years gone by. We see no reason why this Association should feel discouraged or tired of this good work. It is true not so much has been done as could have been, or should have been done, yet, when we take into consideration the number of young ministers who have already been greatly benefitted through this means and are now efficient servants of God, many of them preaching the gospel of Christ with power within our own bounds, and not only this, but we turn our eyes to Trinity. There we see an institution of learning, established by the Muscle Shoals Association and two other bodies, directed and controlled by their own authority, under the supervision of one of our own servants, who in every sense in heart is identified with her best interest, and for a number of years consecrated himself to the service of God within the bounds of this Association; and as an educator he, perhaps, stands second to no one within our knowledge.

Brethren, is not the picture before us beautiful enough to enlist the pride and admiration of every member of this body; that so much has been done tending to the glorifying of God and advancing his cause in our bounds? May this Association never feel satisfied until the Baptist Collegiate Institute, at Mountain view, is

placed on such a foundation of durability and clothed with all necessary appliances as to make her prominent as an institution of learning and ready at all times to say welcome to any one of God's servants who would seek her aid and instruction.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. J. BARKSDALE, Chairman.

Report of the Executive Board.

Bro. H. B. Irwin, the President of the Executive board, read the report of that board, which was adopted as follows:

DEAR BRETHREN:—The first meeting of your board was held at Moulton on January 10th, 1899, with but few members present, on account of bad weather. At this meeting of the board, H. B. Irwin was elected President, and J. M. Sandlin, Secretary of the board. The board met again on the 1st of February, 1899, and on account of the weather being so unfavorable, we failed to have a quorum present. The next meeting was to be held on March 28th, 1899, and on account of rain and high waters, we failed to get a quorum. On April 28th, the board met again. Members present: Bros. H. B. Irwin, J. G. Orr, J. M. Kitchens, J. A. Walker, J. N. Bragg, Jourd White, J. M. Shoemaker, W. D. Irwin, and J. M. Sandlin.

On motion, Bro. J. D. McClanahan was allowed \$25 to preach once a month at Speak's School House until the meeting of the Association.

On motion, Bro. J. D. McClanahan was allowed \$25 to supply Center Grove church until the next meeting of the Association.

On motion, the board allowed \$100 for home board.

On motion, the board employed Bro. Jos. Shackelford to work as missionary, to commence work on June 15th, 1899 and continue until the meeting of the Association at rate of \$35 per month for time actually employed and his entire salary not to exceed \$85. He was also required to make monthly reports of his work to the board.

On motion, the board employed Bro. Vera Shoemaker to work as missionary in the Western and North-western portions of the Association at the rate of \$25 per month for time actually engaged in the work. He is also required to make monthly reports of his work to the board.

The Secretary was instructed to notify Bros. Shackelford and Shoemaker of the action of the board.

On motion, the Secretary was allowed one dollar to pay for stamps and stationery for the use of the board.

The board met again on August 21st, 1899, at Enon church. Only four of the members were present: H. B. Irwin, J. G. Orr, W. D. Irwin, and Jourd White. Not having a quorum, no busi-

ness could be transacted legally, however, those present deemed it necessary to accept Bro. Shackelford's resignation as missionary, and instructed Bro. J. G. Orr to contract with Bro. Marion Briscoe to do missionary work until the meeting of the Association, with the consent of a quorum of the board. We also instructed our secretary to write to Bro. J. O. A. Pace to put in all the time he possibly could in missionary work until the Association, at the rate of \$25 per month for time actually employed in the work. Bros. Briscoe and Pace were required to make their reports to the Association. The monthly reports of Bros. Shackelford and Shoemaker have been very satisfactory.

This board would like to have the suggestions of this Association in order to base the future action of the new board.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. M. SANDLIN, Secretary,

H. B. IRWIN, Chairman,

Preaching Announcement.

The following announcements for preaching were made by Devotional Committee:

At Okolona church, to-night—Eld. J. S. Crosslin.

To-morrow night, at Sanderson's Chapel—Eld. A. W. Briscoe.

Sunday at Okolona church, 11, a. m.—Eld. F. C. David.

Sunday School Mass Meeting at 9, a. m., Sunday, at Okolona, conducted by J. S. Crosslin.

Correspondents.

The following brethren were appointed as correspondents to the Associations named.

Florence—J. O. A. Pace.

Liberty—J. S. Gibson, Jos. Shackelford, F. C. David.

Big Bear Creek—J. S. Gibson, F. C. David, A. W. Briscoe, J. O. A. Pace.

Colbert—L. A. Wear, Jos. Shackelford, R. T. Wear, E. R. Little.

Cullman—J. P. Scruggs, J. E. Weaver, J. S. Gibson, F. C. David.

Alabama Baptist State Convention—Jos. Shackelford, A. W. Briscoe, J. O. A. Pace, R. T. Wear, J. I. Stockton, J. E. Weaver, J. S. Gibson.

Southern Baptist Convention—The Association elected Jos. Shackelford as a delegate to this Convention, and A. W. Briscoe as alternate.

Reports of Missionaries.

The following reports of missionaries were read and ordered to be spread on the minutes:

REPORT OF J. O. A. PACE.

DEAR BRETHREN:—I was employed by the executive board, August 22nd, to labor in the Western and North-western bounds of the Association, on a salary of \$25 per month. The following is my report: Miles traveled, 202; family visits, 34; sermons preached 21; time employed, one month; received from Cherry Hill church, 40 cents; money due me, \$24.60.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. O. A. PACE.

T. V. SHOEMAKER'S REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN:—I was employed by your executive board at a salary of \$25 per month, to begin June 15th. I have tried to reach the destitute portions, but in this short time I could not cover all the destitution. The work for churches which have pastors and which paid me, is not reported.

The following is a report of my labors as missionary: Days employed, 78; sermons preached, 80; prayer meetings held, 14; exhortations delivered, 60; private pleas for Christianity, 218; Sunday school addresses made, 5; Sunday schools organized, 1; conversions witnessed, 25; family visits made, 185; miles traveled, 546. Sold several bibles and testaments and gave some away. Received from W. D. Irwin, Treasurer, \$25; balance due, \$40.

Respectfully Submitted,
T. V. SHOEMAKER.

REPORT OF J. D. M'CLANAHAN.

I received two appointments from your board, to wit: Center Grove, in Morgan county, and Speaks' School House, in Lawrence county. We had regular preaching at each place this year. Have had good congregations. I held a series of meetings at each place, with good results; five additions at Center Grove—two by baptism and three by letter. The church has paid \$25 pastor's salary; all they promised. This church, in my humble opinion, ought to be helped by the board at least one more year. They have called Bro. William Briscoe for their pastor next year. This is a center of population. Their school interest has wonderfully revived under the leadership of Prof. Winton. This has been a hard field to work, but I feel that light has been turned in and the cause of the Master is looking up. We had a glorious meeting at Speaks' School House, in Lawrence county, which lasted six days and nights. I was assisted by our much beloved brother, Richey, who did some faithful preaching. We had about five conversions; baptized two into the fellowship of Enon church. At the close of the meeting the house could not hold the congregation. This is a point, we think, that ought to be supplied by our board.

In this section there is but one Baptist church, Enon, within 12 or 14 miles square. We can organize a church with 25 members, perhaps 30. One acre of land will be given to the church by Bro. Charley Speake, at the cross roads, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile South of Bro. Speake, this being the center of the community.

Your board contracted with me for \$25 at each place, making 50.00 in all. I have received from Mt. Zion church, in Morgan county, 75 cents. Received from Treasurer in August, 30.00. Balance due, 19.25.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. D. McCLANAHAN.

REPORT OF JOS. SHACKELFORD.

I was employed by the executive board to work as a missionary and colporter within the bounds of the Association, commencing June 15, 1899, at the salary of \$35 per month for time actually engaged in the work. I commenced my labors on June 15th, and labored for the remainder of that month, and also for a part of the month of July. Owing to the fact that I was elected president of the North Alabama Collegiate Institute and Normal School, I resigned as missionary. The following is a summary of my work: Days engaged, 25; miles traveled, 117; sermons preached, 28; families visited, 26; deacons ordained, 1; books sold, value, \$1.50; mission money collected from Danville church, \$6.12; from Central church, New Decatur, \$4.53; from Salem church, minute money, last year, 40 cents; salary due me, \$29.16 $\frac{1}{2}$; amount paid me by Treasures, 17.50; balance due, 11.66 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Respectfully Submitted,
JOS. SHACKELFORD.

On motion, the Association adjourned until Saturday, 9, a. m.
Prayer by Bro. J. E. Weaver.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, September 30, 1899.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. W. Sandlin.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The subject of missions was taken up, and on motion, it was ordered that the reports on the various departments of missions be read in their order, and the whole subject of missions be considered together. On motion of Bro. F. C. David, the subject of the Ministers' Institute board was considered along with missions. The reports were then read:

1st Associational missions, by W. E. Wright.

2nd State missions, by J. D. McClanahan.

3rd Home missions, by J. I. Stockton.

4th Foreign missions, by R. T. Wear.

5th Ministers' Institute, by F. C. David.

On motion of Bro. J. I. Stockton, speeches were limited to ten minutes. The following brethren then discussed the question of Missions and Ministers' Institute: J. W. Sandlin, J. O. A. Pace, R. T. Wear, J. M. Roberts, J. S. Crosslin, F. C. David, L. A. Wear, Jos. Shackelford, and J. D. McClanahan.

Pledges were then taken by Bro. Shackelford, as follows:

Pledges and Cash for Missions.

FROM CHURCHES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Bethel, paid F C.....	\$7 25	Enon, 15 00 M, 2 50 I.....	\$17 50
Falkville.....	10	Central New Decatur.....	30
Gum Spring (L).....	5	Center Grove, paid F C.....	3
Harmony.....	10	Danville.....	23
Decatur, First.....	5	Hillsboro.....	15
Hartselle.....	64	Lebanon.....	5
Macedonia, 2.00 I paid F C.....	4	Moulton, 2 50 I, 10 00 M.....	12 50
Moulton Heights.....	5	Mt Hope 5 00 I, 15 00 M.....	20
Mt Zion (L) 2 00 I.....	10	Mt Nebo (F).....	20
Mt Pisgah, paid F C.....	20	New Friendship, paid F C.....	2 40
New Center.....	5	Okolona.....	11
Rocky Creek.....	5	Pleasant Grove, paid F C.....	6 69
Somerville.....	5	Salem.....	5
Shady Grove, 2.50 M, 2.50 I.....	5	Pleasant Hill.....	5
Town Creek 5 00 I, 15 00 M.....	20	Trinity, 4 85 M, 4 50 I, pd F C.....	9 35
Central S S New Decatur.....	5	Moulton S S.....	5
Moulton Heights S S.....	2		
			190 44
	187 25		187 25
Total from churches and Sunday-schools.....			377 69

INDIVIDUALS.

For Okolona Church by Individuals.

W H Richey.....	\$1	J T Campbell.....	\$1
W E Hagood, paid.....	1	M E Crinter.....	50
N B Bond.....	50	A C Bond.....	50
G W Bond.....	1	I Campbell.....	1
Bob Bond.....	1	B W Willis.....	1
F T Campbell.....	1	J D Hagood.....	1
H G Reed.....	1	Mrs Mary Bond.....	1
Miss Mamie Butler.....	1		
			6 00
	7 50		7 50
			13 50

For Okolona Church, in addition to individual pledge:

E R Little.....	\$1 00	T V Shoemaker.....	\$1 00
Mrs O L Carpenter, paid....	25	Mrs. J A Nesmith.....	50
E W Runey, paid.....	60	W T Jells.....	50
C O Willis.....	50	Miss Willie Willis.....	50
J J Churchwell.....	1 00	Mrs. A A Willis.....	1 00
J L Richey.....	50	F L Campbell, paid.....	50
Henrietta Beck.....	50	Cash collection.....	55
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$4 35		\$4 55
			4 85

Total from individuals.....	\$8 90
From individuals for Okolona church.....	13 50

Total from churches and Sunday schools.....	\$22 40
	377 69

Grand total for Missions and Institute work.....	\$400 07
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[I stands for Institute work.]

The reports were then adopted in their order as follows:

Report on Associational Missions.

Your Committee on Associational Missions would report as follows:

Associational Missions are productive of great good to the cause of Christ. The destitute have been reached and churches have been established in many parts of our Association through the efforts of the missionary. Eternity, also, will reveal the great good that has been done through our Associational mission work. The question of grave importance for this body to consider, is whether we will continue the work, and if so, in what way. Shall we assign certain districts to brethren and require them to preach and work in that district, or will we require them to establish other churches in destitute regions. Will we help the churches already established, that are weak, and enable them to have regular preaching and thereby perpetuate the good work that has commenced.

We see from the reports coming from the different churches in our Association, that much destitution now prevails among some of the churches. Some are without regular preaching and it seems that the work of the past will be lost unless something is done. Your committee would, therefore, ask that the executive board be instructed to look after these weak and pastorless churches and see that a good portion of the means of the Association is applied to supply this want. We recommend that the churches

contribute more liberally for Associational missions so that this great need can be supplied.

Respectfully submitted,
 W. E. WRIGHT, }
 J. S. HOWELL, } Committee.
 W. B. BROTHERS, }

State Missions.

Your Committee on State Missions begs leave to submit the following report:

I am glad to say that the grand tidal wave of debt paying, which swept the incubus of long standing from Howard College, also banished the debt from our State Mission Board. That fact has sent a thrill of joy and gladness to the vast host of the Lord's saints throughout our great state. I trust that generous and liberal givers will see to it that the board will never again be so much involved in debt. It is hardly to be expected that any of our boards will always be ready at any moment to meet all demands made upon them, but if Baptists will do their duty, none will finally go to the convention in debt. I have not the data at hand to show the work accomplished by the State board during our Associational year, but I dare say, that the results are satisfactory to a goodly degree.

The denomination throughout the State is highly gratified at the return of Bro. W. B. Crumpton, as secretary of our State mission board. We may confidently expect that he will do all he can to carry the State mission work to a glorious success.

Brethren, let the Muscle Shoals Association rally more determined than ever before to all our mission work—State, Home, Foreign, Orphans' Home, Ministerial, Education, Preachers' Institute Work and all.

Respectfully Submitted,
 J. D. McCLANAHAN, Chairman.

Home Missions.

Your committee on Home Missions report as follows:

A number of years ago The Southern Baptist Convention, seeing the fields white unto the harvest, in certain localities, not embraced in the work of the Foreign Mission Board, nor by any of the State Boards, and in other localities within the bounds of our States, but not occupied for the lack of funds in these states, established the Home Board, whose duty it was made to take care of these destitute localities and supply the people with the preached gospel. This board has been very vigilant in procuring funds and employing missionaries to occupy these places of destitution. As to the amount of good that has been done by this board in the South it is impossible to tell. Every state in the Territory of the Southern Baptist Convention has been blessed by the work of the board.

Alabama has received aid from it in several of its centers of population and influence. The eyes of the board have been turned to the flood tide of the foreign element in our mining fields and the cities which have sprung into existence like magic in our State. The state of Texas has, possibly, received more attention than any other state and can show greater results than any other from the work of the home board. With these facts before us, let us be as liberal as possible in helping to carry on this good work. We would recommend that this Association continue to divide her mission funds with the home board.

J. I. STOCKTON, }
J. T. WALLACE, } Committee.
LOUIS STUBBS, }

Foreign Missions.

What is missions? The spirit of missions is none other than the spirit of Christ, in whom all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. It is compassion for the lost, and such compassion as prompts its possessor to pray and labor for their salvation. Hence, when Andrew found Jesus, he at once went in search of his brother, Simon, and brought him to Jesus. The next day Christ said to Phillip, "follow me." Obeying the divine injunction and realizing the blessing that had come to him, he at once finds Nathaniel and tells him of the Christ and persuades him to come and see Jesus. This accords with our experience as Christians. We all, at this, exclaim with David: "O! taste and see that the Lord is good," and like Paul, we all feel, as we look at the benighted heathen, "my heart's desire and prayer to God is, that they might be saved." Hence, we see that the missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ, "and if any man has not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Never before, in all the past, has such glorious opportunities been afforded for preaching the gospel to all nations. Never before has the people of heathen lands been more willing to receive the gospel than now. With doors thrown wide open and the Macedonia cry sound in our ears, from the far off islands, "come over and help us," will we not enter and give to the perishing the word of life. But preeminent above every other consideration, will not we who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, step aside from the compassion of the multitude and view again the scene in Gethsemane, when our Lord bore upon His infinite sensitive conscience the sins of the world. But one step will take us beneath the shadow of His cross, and we hear again the cry, "It is finished!" Then to the mountain of Galilee. The triumphant conqueror gives the command that should be heard by every ear and felt by every heart. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Brethren, it is His to com-

mand, ours to obey. "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken, than the fat of rams."

We have now in the foreign field, 83 missionaries, 27 ordained native helpers, and 101 ordained helpers, making in all 211 at work to bring the many millions to Christ. Does not each messenger to this body feel the importance of doing more to give the heathen the gospel of Christ?

Respectfully Submitted,

R. T. WEAR, }
C. C. HALL, } Committee.

Institute Work.

Your committee on Institute work beg leave to make the following report:—Brethren W. E. Hudman, J. T. Shaffer and J. E. Gregory, for the executive committees of Institute Board, have issued an address to the Baptists of Alabama calling attention of the brotherhood of the state to this important work. We cannot do better than offer a part of their address to this association. "It is important that the work being attempted by any of our boards should be fully understood by our people, so that they may intelligently determine their duty. The Institute Board was created by our state convention in 1897 and charged with arranging institute work among the white preachers of the state. Now what is the special work of the Institute Board? It is a denominational effort to reach and help our field ministry in sermonic study, and in all else relating to the general performance of their duty. It is the hope of the board that our work may tend to broaden the fellowship and acquaintance of our preachers that we may have the benefit of their cooperation in all our great denominational enterprises. To accomplish this we think would be an important achievement. We conclude that this is the most important and hopeful work before the denomination, and until it is accomplished by this or some other agency, the denomination will work at a great disadvantage. These institutes are of five and six days duration. The instruction is attempted by lectures. Rev. G. S. Anderson is our Superintendent of Institute work, and delivers about ten lectures at each Institute on the law of discourse, as applied in Sermon Structure. This is a new feature in Institute work and has been very helpful to our preachers attending our meetings. Other brethren delivered lectures on other subjects. We attempt to use our stronger men—pastors, in our work. We mean to help our pastors, and to do it with all our might; using the men we have in our employment, and also, our wisest and best pastors, as we can.

Some have helped us and some have ignored us, we still appeal to them for their aid. It is a fact that more than three-fourths of our pastors who are in charge of our village and country churches

have been denied the benefit of special College and Seminary training. They cannot now avail themselves of such training. The schools cannot reach them, nor can they reach the schools. They are among our best men. We have attempted to help our young men who could attend the schools, why not attempt to help these men on the field, who are in the thickest of the fight? We think they should be aided and quickly and earnestly. If it is done we must go to them on the field. This is what we are doing. Brethren treat our work according to its importance, according to its real merit. This is all we ask. We are your servants to carry this work on, and we can do only what your contribution and endorsement make possible. We have had three men on the field, Brethren G. S. Anderson, G. A. Harnack and F. C. David. Bro. Harnack has recently resigned from this work. Now brethren you see the situation. The Institute board is about a \$1000 in debt. When the great indebtedness of the state was paid the Institute board was left out. We appeal to you now that special attention be given this work at this association. We need help for like other boards we want to come to the convention out of debt. Your committee respectfully ask the association that any funds sent up undesignated be turned over to the Institute board, also that the delegates in apportioning their pledges for their churches for another year let the Institute Work share a prorater part.

Respectfully Submitted,

F. C. DAVID, }
J. I. STOCKTON, } Committee.
A. W. BRISCOE, }

On motion, the Association adjourned for 1½ hours. Prayer by Bro. L. A. Wear.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order at the appointed time by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. J. S. Gibson.

Orphan's Home.

Bro. A. W. Briscoe read the report on the Orphan's Home. After speeches by Bros. David and Briscoe, a collection was taken up for the Home, resulting as follows:

Bro. Runy,	paid \$1 00
L A Wear	paid 40
Jos Shackelford	paid 1 00
J S Gibson	25
Cash collection	8 02
Total	\$10 67

This amount was turned over to Bro. J. W. Sandlin, missionary of State board.

The report was adopted as follows:

No institution, fostered by the Baptists of Alabama, presents its claims with more force than does the Baptist Orphanage at Evergreen. Under the management of our beloved and generous hearted brother, G. W. Stewart, this institution is doing great good. That it is the home of the Orphan is sufficient appeal to solicit the earnest support of every Christian heart. The children in this home have no means of support other than by our contributions. The cry of the orphan will touch a responsive chord in the heart of even the most indifferent. Our people will contribute to the Orphanage if its claims are presented. We therefore recommend that the pastors in this association see to it that regular collections are taken in their churches for the Baptist Orphanage.

A. W. BRISCOE.
J. S. GIBSON.

Temperance.

Rev. J. L. Richey read the report on temperance, which was adopted, as follows:

Your committee on Temperance beg leave to report the following: Dear Brethren: Noticing the many crimes in our country, the homes destitute of that fatherly care so greatly needed, wives alone and children orphans, we look for the cause of much of it, and in so doing we see that the foundation of most of the evils referred to is the saloon, with all of its influences. We, in the name of Him who knows the heart of man, appeal to you to aid in every way you can the efforts made to remove from our country the saloon and all of its resultant evils. Banish the saloon and you will do much towards getting rid of the Master evil, intemperance.

J. L. RICHEY.
C. G. LYNCH.

Colportage.

Bro. T. V. Shoemaker read the report on Colportage. After some remarks by Rev. R. T. Wear the report was adopted, as follows:

Your committee on Colportage beg leave to report; If we understand the duties of our missionaries, one of the most important is to indoctrinate the churches within their fields of labor. This is not to be done by the preaching of one or two short sermons, but by the distribution of good Baptist literature. We believe that each minister in this association should keep a number of good tracts for distribution in the homes of their members; not only this, but our association could not better spend \$25 or \$30 than in the purchasing of good literature for distribution among our people each year. On last year we reported 2807 members

within our bounds; and of this number, about 10 or 15 per cent understand the Baptist doctrines. What a lamentable fact! The pastors cannot fully instruct their members in one or two hours' work in every seven hundred and twenty. Our Baptist people need instructions in Baptist principles. Again, if we as Baptists do not supply the young with literature, some other denomination will. All other religious denominations are flooding our country with their tracts. Can we Baptists suffer our children to read these tracts, or will we supply them ourselves? We earnestly beg the executive board to see that money is given for this purpose. O, may the day soon come when the Baptists of North Alabama will be strong in our doctrine. Respectfully submitted,

R. L. QUINN, Chairman.

Sunday Schools.

BRO. T. V. SHOEMAKER read the report on Sunday Schools, which was adopted, as follows:

Your committee on Sunday-schools make the following report: Last year, of the 48 churches represented in this body, 33 reported Sunday-schools, with a membership of 1304. Four of the churches gave no statistics. This year, of the 34 churches represented, 19 report Sunday-schools, with a membership of 978. From this report it is clearly seen that we are retrograding, and unless there is soon a change for the better we will be in a deplorable condition. Yes, we are already there. Brethren, this ought not to be. We consider the Sunday-school one of the greatest auxiliaries to the church, and as Baptists let us be more loyal to the cause which we believe is none other than the cause of Christ. This is a progressive age; an age in which men make great sacrifices for the promotion of their own selfish purposes, and yet for the cause of the Sunday-school we fail to stand. Just think!—last year's report showed the membership of our association 3012, and this year's report shows that only 978 are in Sunday-school, and no doubt many of these are unconverted. We feel safe in saying that of the 978, 50 per cent are out of Christ, which leaves only 489 Baptists belonging to our Sunday-schools. What! you say 3012 Baptists and only 489 in Sunday-school? Such is the condition. The reason we do not understand. Too many of us have the idea that the Sunday-school is only for children and ignorant people. Brethren, we are all ignorant; and if we would not remain so, let us attend Sunday-school. It has been truly said, "We must educate or we must perish," and there is no education more ennobling, elevating and sublime than that received in the Sunday-school. Pastors, let us urge upon our churches the importance of attending the Sunday-school; and let us strive to arouse them from their lethargy and inaction and get them interested in Sunday-school work,

so that by the meeting of another association every church may be able to report a flourishing Sunday-school.

Respectfully submitted,

T. V. SHOEMAKER.

J. W. LIVINGSTON,

J. J. CHENAULT,

} Committee.

State of Religion.

Bro. Pace read the report on State of Religion, which was adopted, as follows:

We, your committee on State of Religion, report: From the reading of the letters we notice that several of the churches report glorious revivals; others report a low state of religion. We believe, however, that we are making progress. In taking a survey of the whole field, we think we are advancing. If we will trust the promise of our Divine Master, who said, "Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," we will take this field for Christ. Respectfully submitted,

J. O. A. PACE.

W. H. MUSTON.

J. M. WEST.

Report on Documents.

Bro. J. D. McClanahan read the report on Documents, which was adopted, as follows:

We, your committee on Documents, report as follows: Two churches ask for the next meeting of the association—Lebanon and Macedonia, in Morgan. Two letters ask for dismissal, viz., Russellville, and Macedonia in Franklin county. We find but few of our churches that report Sunday schools and prayer meetings. We recommend that our churches strive to organize Sunday-schools and prayer meetings in their respective churches, and report the same at the next session of this body.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. BLACKMAN,

W. H. JUNKINS.

JACOB W. LIVINGSTON.

The request of Russellville and Macedonia churches for letters of dismission to join Colbert association, was granted, and the clerk instructed to write said letters.

Finance Committee.

Bro. H. B. Irwin, chairman of Finance Committee, read the report of that committee, with the understanding that the clerk be authorized to make such corrections in the report as may be necessary; it was adopted. [See Financial Exhibit.]

Deceased Ministers.

Bro. J. E. Weaver read the report on Deceased Ministers, which, in accordance with instructions, contained a reference to the death of Bro. J. C. Orr, long a member of this body, and a most efficient one, though not a minister. The report was adopted by a standing vote, after which, on motion, a few minutes was spent in prayer, led by Bro. R. T. Wear.

Your committee on Deceased Ministers would report that we feel thankful to God that His Gracious Providence has withheld the hand of death from the ministers of our association. Dear Brethren, as an additional duty you ask us to consider the deaths of prominent members of our body who have passed away since our last meeting. In sadness we refer to the death of our beloved brother, J. C. Orr. His worthy life will ever be remembered. Strong in the faith, humble and obedient, alive to every good work, strong in his opposition to error, bold in defense of the truth, a teacher in the Sunday school, a friend to temperance, in his death we have sustained a great loss. A good man has fallen. His church realizes her loss. We as an association feel the stroke. The bereaved family have a place in our sympathies. May the gracious hand of an overruling Providence direct them to see that the Great God doeth all things well.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. WEAVER,
R. B. DAY,
J. T. WALLACE,

} Committee.

Division of Funds,

The following resolution was offered by Bro. Joseph Shackelford. and adopted :—

Resolved, That in addition to the instructions given to the treasurer of this association by resolution passed at this session, as to the payment of funds sent to this association by the churches for foreign missions, home missions, state missions and the board of ministers' institute, to Bro. J. W. Sandlin, agent of the state board of missions, and Bro. F. C. David, agent of ministers' institute board, the treasurer is hereby directed to pay to these respective boards, in addition to the amounts which the churches have directed to be sent to these different boards, and have already sent them, a sufficient amount to make the sum contributed to these boards by this association as follows: Foreign mission board, \$50.00; home mission board, \$25.00; state mission board, \$75.00; ministers' institute board, \$50.00. He is also authorized to pay this money to the representatives of these boards, Bros. J. W. Sandlin and F. C. David.

Appointment of Boards, Trustees, etc.

The committee on Nominations made their report, which was, on motion, amended as to the board of ministerial education, and then adopted, as follows:

Your committee on Nominations recommend the appointment of the following boards and trustees and preachers of the introductory sermon:

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

A. W. Bailey,	Frank Caruth,	J. M. Shoemaker,
J. N. Bragg,	H. B. Irwin,	J. H. Wear,
J. T. Wallace,	J. G. Orr,	J. C. Tidwell.
Dr. J. M. Kitchens,	Jourdan White,	J. A. Walker.
W. D. Irwin, Treasurer. Board located at Moulton.		

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION, LOCATED AT DECATUR.

J. A. Thomason,	J. Gunn,	J. G. Orr,
C. T. Burt,	O. F. Wright,	Tobe Williams.
Joa. Shackelford.		

TRUSTEES

of North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School:
A. W. Bailey, J. I. Stockton, J. A. Thomason.

Preacher of introductory at next meeting—Elder J. I. Stockton;
alternate, Elder T. V. Shoemaker.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. BARKSDALE, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report.

W. D. Irwin, Treasurer of the Association, made the following report, which was ordered to be spread on the minutes.

W. D. Irwin, Treasurer,

In Account with Muscle Shoals Association.

1898

Dr.

Sept. 30,	To amount on hand, as reported last association,	\$108 72
Oct. 1,	To amount received from Finance Committee	420 09
" 3,	To cash from Sunday's collection	5 09
" 3,	for Orphan's Home	5 65
" 7,	from Decatur First church for missions	7 75
" 7,	from Decatur First church for minutes	75
" 24,	from interest on Courtland church fund	16 00
Nov. 7,	from Harmony church for missions	54
" 29,	from Euon church for missions	75
" 29,	from Okolona church ministerial education	87
Dec. 3,	from Mrs. L A Wear for Min. Ed	50

1899.

Mch 15,	from Okolona church for Min. Ed	1 15
" 15,	from Harmony church for missions	70
" 29,	from Town Creek church for missions	1 70
April 28,	from New Prospect church for missions	51
May 6,	from Okolona church for Min. Ed	65
June 8,	from Harmony church for missions	70
July 1,	from Okolona church for Min. Ed	75
" 15,	from Okolona church for Min. Ed	75
Sept. 2,	from Okolona church for Min. Ed	50
" 28,	from Frank Owen's bequest	20 00
" 30,	from Danville church for missions	6 12
"	from Central Church, New Decatur	4 53
"	from Salem church, minutes	40

\$605.27

1898.

Cr.

Oct. 1,	By cash paid T V Shoemaker on salary	\$31 22
" 1,	" " J O A Pace	15 00
" 1,	" " J Gunn	80 00
" 12,	" " Jos Shackelford for Ministerial Ed	34 98
" 25,	" " Jos Shackelford, clerk's fee	25 00
Nov. 3,	" " Orphan's Home	9 01
" 4,	" " Printing minutes, and expenses	50 00
" 4,	" " Postage on minutes	30
" 8,	" sent State Mission Board	29 03
" 9,	" " Home Mission Board	45 00

Amount forwarded \$319.54

By amount forwarded.....			\$319 54
" 8,	"	Foreign Mission Board.....	77 45
" 17,	"	W E Wright on salary	15 00
1899.			
July 1,	"	Jos Shackelford on salary	17 50
" 1,	"	Money order fee	14
Aug. 2,	"	paid T. V. Shoemaker on salary	25 00
" 22,	"	J D McClanahan on salary	30 00
Sept. 30,	"	Jos Shackelford on salary	11 66
			<hr/> \$196.29
Sept 30, By balance on hand			108.98
			<hr/> \$605.27

Bro. Shackelford asked the privilege of adding some items in the treasurer's report, by consent of the treasurer, which request was granted, and \$11.05 was placed on debit side of money received by him, but not reported in time to be included in the treasurer's report, and \$11.66 on credit side, as paid to him on salary.

Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The Moderator announced that the subject of the time and place of the next meeting of the association was the next subject to come before the association, and asked for nominations. The following churches were put in nomination: Central. New Decatur, Lebanon and Mount Pisgah. The vote being taken, the association by a considerable majority voted to meet with Mount Pisgah church at Flint, Morgan county, on Thursday, before the first Sabbath in October, 1900.

Resolutions.

By Bro. F. C. David: Resolved, That the Moderator of this association appoint a committee to arrange for a centennial meeting, to be observed next year by this association.

Adopted, and the Moderator appointed the following brethren as the centennial committee: F. C. David, R. T. Wear, J. I. Stockton, J. E. Weaver, T. V. Shoemaker.

By J. D. McClanahan: Resolved, That this association authorize the clerk to have 1000 copies of the minutes published, and that he be paid \$25 for his services out of the funds of this body.

Adopted.

By A. W. Briscoe: Resolved, That the treasurer of this association be instructed to turn over to J. W. Sandlin all monies held by this body for state, home and foreign missions; also all money due the institute board be turned over to Bro. F. C. David.

Adopted.

By J. S. Gibson: Resolved, That the thanks of this association are hereby tendered to Okolona church and community for their kind and most generous hospitality, in the entertainment of its delegates during the meeting of this body.

Query.

The following query was presented by Bros. J. I. Stockton and J. D. McClanahan:

"What ought a Missionary Baptist Church do with a member that refuses to contribute to missions, on the ground that it is not scriptural?"

On motion of Bro. Shackelford the query was answered thus: Withdraw fellowship from that member, after laboring to convince him of his error, and he persists in his error.

The committee on Devotional Exercises announced the following additional appointments:

Sanderson's chapel to-night, by W. T. Cobbs.

Sanderson's chapel to-morrow, 11 a. m., J. E. Weaver.

Mount Zion to-night, J. D. McClanahan.

Mount Zion to-morrow, 11 a. m., A. W. Briscoe.

Standing Committees.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees:

On Associational Missions—J. D. McClanahan, R. B. Day, J. Wiley Horton.

State Missions—L. A. Wear, W. H. Junkins, E. J. Barksdale.

Home Missions—R. T. Wear, W. E. Wright, G. W. Bond.

Foreign Missions—F. C. David, J. J. Churchwell, J. W. Livingston.

Education—Jos. Shackelford, Clarence Gillespie, T. J. Ainsworth.

Ministerial Education—J. E. Weaver, W. M. Jolly, J. C. Bragg.

Orphan's Home—J. R. Blackman, J. T. Wallace, J. S. Howell.

Temperance—J. L. Richey, J. G. Orr, W. J. Briscoe.

Colportage—T. V. Shoemaker, John M. West, F. L. Chenault.

Sunday Schools—R. L. Quinn, O. F. Wright, Jourd White.

Institute Work—J. I. Stockton, Marion Briscoe, J. S. Gibson.

Bro. Stockton presented the case of Sister Speer, widow of Eld. John Speer, to the association, and asked for aid to enable her to send her children to school. The brethren responded as follows,

Report of Finance Committee.

CHURCHES,	State missions— Cash.	State missions— Voucher.	Home missions— Cash.	Home missions— Voucher.	Foreign missions— Cash.	Foreign missions— Voucher.	Institute work— Cash.	Institute work— Voucher.	Associational missions—cash.	Associational missions—vch'r.	Education, Minis- terial—cash.	Education Minis- terial—vch'r.	Colportage— vch'r.	Incidentals—State Convention— debt—voucher.	Orphan's Home— voucher.	Minutes.
Bethel	\$3 00		\$2 00		1 00		\$1 25		17 85		2 00					1 00
Gen. New Decatur		\$3 75					3 75		3 00		1 00					1 00
Center Grove									18 00	6 12	2 65	7 25		5 00	1 27	1 00
Danville	2 50		2 50		7 50				5 90		2 55	1 00				1 00
Enon					6 00				5 00		2 00					1 00
Harmo				1 10	1 80	3 14										1 00
Hope			5 00		5 00											1 00
Hillsboro																1 00
Hartselle	2 33	5 67	7 00		4 25	2 78			8 11		3 25					1 00
Lebanon							2 50		5 00							1 00
Macedonia (F)					8 00											1 00
Macedonia (M)							2 00		2 00		1 00			3 26	1 00	50
Mt. Zion (L)									8 11							1 00
Mt. Zion (M)				50					75							1 00
Mt. Nebo (F)									20 00		3 00					1 00
Mt. Nebo (M)									5 00							1 00
Mt. Hope									20 00		2 50	2 50				1 00
Mt. Pisgah									10 00							1 00
Moulton							10 00		10 00		6 00	4 00				1 00
Moulton Heights									2 50							1 00
New Decatur 1st.		12 38				10 00	2 81	5 00	11 21		5 00	3 50	32 00	34 00		1 00
New Centre																1 00
New Friendship									2 40							1 00
Okolona					15 00				5 00							1 00
Pleasant Grove	30	2 04			2 50				1 35							1 00
Pleasant Hill (M)									4 50		1 70					1 00
Russellville		2 51	6 22				1 27		5 00			5 00				1 10
Rock Creek									5 00							50
Salem									5 00							1 10
Somerville									5 00		1 00					50
Shady Grove							2 50									70
Town Creek									17 70		2 30	7 70				50
Trinity	1 00		35		1 10		4 50		2 40							60
Shoal Creek			50		50											60
Moulton S S									5 00							
Danville S S									1 50		2 00	3 00				
Town Creek S S									2 50			2 50				
Moulton Hets S S											1 00					
Russellville S S												5 00				
Cash Collections									2 90							
W. E. Haygood									1 00							

\$9 13 \$26 35 \$17 85 7 32 \$52 08 \$19 67 \$16 80 \$40 52 \$26 23 6 12 \$33 56 61 64 3 50 37 06 28 51 18 50

RECAPITULATION.

Cash and vouchers received for	Cash.	Voucher.	Total.
State Missions	\$3 00	\$28 35	\$35 48
Home Missions	17 85	7 33	25 17
Foreign Missions	152 60	19 87	172 47
Associational Missions	226 25	6 12	232 37
Ministerial Education	38 85	51 50	90 35
Orphan's Home	38 85	25 53	64 38
Ministers' Institute	16 55	40 53	57 08
Minutes	18 55		18 55
Convention debt		37 06	37 06
Collection	2 90		2 90
Individual	1 00		1 00
Colportage		3 50	3 50
Total	\$379 74	\$4350 71	\$4730 45

The Finance Committee report that they have received cash and vouchers as above, and have paid over to the Treasurer \$379 74 and \$4350 71. The balance in hand of Clerk is \$4378 18 00. Paid Treasurer of Board of Ministerial Education, Danville, \$15 15. Enon in cash \$5 81. Total \$609 85.

Your committee find that a mistake has been made in the cash balance which ought to be the amount paid over to Treasurer. We suppose it is because some item has been placed in cash column which ought to have been placed in voucher column. We had no time to rectify it.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. R. IRWIN,
O. H. HUGHES, Committee.
JONATHAN G. ORR,

Financial Exhibit of Muscle Shoals Association, for Year 1899.

CHURCHES.	State Missions— cash	State Missions— voucher	Home Missions— cash	Home Missions— voucher	Foreign Missions— cash	Foreign Missions— voucher	Institute Mission work—cash	Institute Mission work—voucher	Associational— cash	Associational— voucher	Bible and Gospel- tag—voucher	Education, Minis- terial—cash	Education, Minis- terial—voucher	Education, In- dustrial—voucher	Orphan's Home	Minutes	Home Ex.—Pas- tor's salary— paid	Home Ex.—Rep- resentatives and new build- ings	Home Ex.—Four, Five, Sunday Schools, etc	Total	Value of Property
Bethel	\$3 00		\$2 00		\$1 00		\$1 25									50				\$7 75	\$400
Bethany																				80	300
Blue Springs																					400
Cave Spring																					300
Gen. New Decatur		\$3 75				\$3 75			\$17 85			\$3 00				\$1 00	\$376 59	\$10 00	\$70 00	484 94	600
Centre Grove									3 00			1 00				50				4 50	400
Cherry Hill														St. d. b. t.							200
Danville	2 50		2 50		7 50				18 00	\$6 12		2 65	\$7 25	\$5 00	\$1 27		50 00		2 50	105 24	1200
Darlington												3 00									400
Decatur, First &												2 35	1 00							3 00	3000
Enon					6 00				5 90								50 00			65 45	700
Friendship																					250
Falkville																					400
Gum Spring (L)																					50
Gum Spring (M)																	12 00			12 00	50
Harmony				\$1 10	1 86	3 14			5 00			2 00								13 10	
Hopewell			5 00		5 00								5 00			1 00	45 00		2 00	63 00	400
Hillsboro								\$3 85	7 78				3 37	St. d. b. t.		75			30 00	45 75	1800
Hartselle	2 33	5 67	7 00		4 22	2 78	2 50	11 67	13 00			3 25		100 15		1 75	300 00	100 00	45 90	497 73	1000
Lebanon									5 00							1 00	16 00	300 00	2 50	327 60	400
Macedonia (F)					8 00								2 65		3 24	1 00	49 00	4 20		68 11	700
Macedonia (M)							2 00		2 00			1 00				55				5 55	600
Monilton							10 00		15 00			3 00	7 00			1 00		25 00		41 00	1000
Moulton Heights									2 50			1 00								28 50	800
Mt. Zion (L)									8 11			3 00								11 11	250
Mt. Zion (M)			50						75											1 35	250
Mt. Nebo (F)									20 00			3 00								23 00	1000
M. Nebo (M)									5 00							60				5 60	500
Mt. Pisgah							10 00		10 00			2 50	2 50	St. d. b. t.		1 00	60 00	32 00	15 00	128 00	1000
Mr. Hope									3 40							1 00				26 00	
New Friendship																1 00				3 40	300
New Decatur		12 38					10 00	2 81	5 00	11 31	\$3 50		5 00	32 06	24 00			11 00		111 15	850
New Hope																				50	
New Centre																				1 00	150
New Prospect																					275
Okolona					15 00				5 00												275
Pleasant Grove	30	2 04			2 50				1 25				4 67			90				24 67	350
Pleasant Hill (M)									4 50			1 70				50				6 99	435
Pleasant Hill (L)																				6 70	400
Rook Creek																					
Russellville		2 51					6 22	1 27	5 00				*5 00			1 10	71 40	243 19	10 50		1800
Salem									5 00												200
Somerville									5 00			1 00				50					
Shady Grove								2 50	2 50							50					
Shoal Creek			50	50								2 30	7 70			65	50 00	5 00			650
Town Creek																					100
Trinity	1 00			35	1 10		4 50		20 90							75					800
									2 40												500
	\$9 13	\$36 35	\$17 85	\$7 32	\$52 68	\$19 67	\$18 68	\$40 52	\$236 15	\$6 12	\$3 50	\$39 98	\$51 14	\$37 21	\$38 53	\$18 55	\$980 59	\$530 39	\$179 20	\$2127 88	\$30100

Total money given for missions.....	\$359 15	Total money for debt of Ministerial board	58 72	Churches marked * the amount includes what the Sabbath school	
Total money given for Min. Ed.	91 09	by individuals and churches.....	58 72	gave	
Total money for Institute Work.	57 33	Collection for missions.....	39 20	Of this amount \$5 was given by Bro. J. G. Orr, in memory of his	
Total money for Orphan's Home.....	28 53	Collection for Orphans Home.....	39 20	deceased daughter, Miss Glenn Orr, who was a faithful worker in	
Total money for Colportage.....	8 50			the church.	
Total money for debt of Convention 187 21				* This church has a parsonage—the only one in the Association.	
Total money for minutes.....	18 55			Several churches have made no report of what they have done dur-	
				ing the year, hence, cannot make a full exhibit. Only a few report	
				how much they have paid on pastor's salary,	
	\$496 38		\$100 53		
			695 38		
			\$795 20		

Statistics of Muscle Shoals Association, 1899.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE	Increased by		Decre'd. by		Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL.		Preaching Sabbath	Prayer M'g's	Revival
					Leaves Left Reported.	Baptism	Letter Voucher.	Restor'n.	Letter.	Exclusion. Erasure.	Death.	Officers & Teachers	Pupils	Superintendent's name and Post Office.
Bethel	Morgan	J I Stockton	J C Love	Hartselle	76	8			2		1	76	5	30 J A Muzzey, Hartselle
Bethany	Lawrence	None	J W Owen	Town Creek	42				1			42	6	60 J B Slaton, Town Creek
Bellview	Lawrence	T V Shoemaker	W R Crow	Crow	33							33		
Cave Spring	Morgan		W T Collier	Pricville	13							13		
Cen. New Decatur	Morgan	Quinberry	John A Thomason	Decatur	116	1	2		6			119	8	Sunday school; no report
Centre Grove	Morgan	W M Briscoe	J A Crawford	Center Grove	23	2	3					26		75 John A Thomason, Decatur
Cherry Hill	Franklin		E R Richeson	Waco	30							30		One last year; no report
Blue Springs	Morgan	J E Weaver	W J Weaver	Florette	46							46		
Danville	Morgan	Jos Shackelford	Hattie Lindsey	Danville	54		4		9			49	4	30 J Lipham, Danville
Decatur, First	Morgan		L R Day	Decatur	36							36		Sunday school; no report
Enon	Lawrence	J D McClanahan	J P Wallace	Jessetown	141	4			3		1	139		
Friendship	Lawrence	M Briscoe	E W Ruden	Haschem	37							37		
Falkville	Morgan	W T Cobbs	F L Simpson	Falkville	60							60		{ D F Green, Falkville,
Darlington	Franklin		J T Jackson	Rockwood	26							26		{ Sunday school; no report
Gum Spring	Morgan	J E Roan	E J Powell	Hartselle	79							79		
Harpucny	Lawrence	J R Blackman	W R Muston	Hatton	49							49		
Howepell	Lawrence	L A Wear	John S Howell	Hillsboro	74	5			1	3	1	74		
Hillsboro	Lawrence	J D McClanahan	F H Orr	Danville	88	2			6		4	80		
Hartselle	Morgan	J G Johnson	W R Aycock	Hillsboro	57	18	2		1			71	5	40 A W Batley, Hillsboro
Iebanon	Morgan	J G Lowery	E P Johnson	Hartselle	50	1	9		3	1	1	55	6	71 J L Gibson, Hartselle
Macedonia	Morgan	J D McClanahan	H J Thomason	Falkville	34	3	11		8		3	87	5	40 W H Junkins, Falkville
Mission Grove	Franklin	J I Stockton	J Brumlow	Flint	42	1	6		2		1	45	3	25 W M Brothers, Flint
Moulton	Lawrence	R T Wear	J H Tubbs	Ora	35	1						35	6	25 T N Vinson, Newburg
Moulton Heights	Lawrence	A W Briscoe	John Yates	Courtland	13							13		
Mt. Hope	Morgan	J Gunn	H B Irwin	Moulton	44							44		25 T J Ainsworth
Mt. Zion	Lawrence	R T Wear	W H Gordon	New Decatur	19	13	5					37	4	25 W H Gordon, New Decatur
Mt. Zion	Lawrence	J R Nesmith	G W Jackson	Mt. Hope	48	6						54		
Mt. Nebo	Morgan		J H Butler	Edmond	48							48		11 F T Campbell, Edmond
M. Nebo	Morgan	W T Cobbs	W H H Thompson	Hartselle	74						1	74		
Mt. Pleasant	Franklin	R H Gibson	R H Gibson	Masey	72							72		
New Hope	Morgan	W T Cobbs	G W Hargett	Hargett's Mills	75	3	3		13	4		74		
New Prospect	Lawrence	F M Yeager	H A McClelland	Flint	88	2	9		2			95	5	54 John W Gibson, Flint
New Friendship	Lawrence	J R Blackman	M H Crow	Courtland	61	6	5	1		2	3	68		
New Centre	Morgan	J J Churchwell	M A Masterson	Landersville	30							30		
New Decatur	Morgan	J E Roan	W J Bankenship	Somerville	53	7	10	1	2	6	3	60	3	25 G W Berry, Somerville
Okolona	Morgan	J E Wright	S R Lawrence	Somerville	30	3	1	1				34		
Pleasant Grove	Lawrence	F M Yeager	Frank Utter	New Decatur	72	6	4		4	4	1	78	7	75 J C Lane, New Decatur
Pleasant Hill	Lawrence	L A Wear	R L Bond	Hatton	126	2			4	3	2	117		
Pleasant Hill	Lawrence	J J Churchwell	M C Brazg	Moulton	86							86		80 J T Pearson, Wrenn
Russellville	Morgan		J W Tyler	Moun't Home	21							21		
Rock Creek	Franklin	J Ginn	G W Russell	Simpson	91	1	2		3			90		
Salem	Morgan	A W Briscoe	F Greenhill	Russellville	89	14	4	1	7		1	90	6	70 N C Greenhill, Russellville
Somerville	Morgan	J E Weaver	J C Allison	Lawrence Cove	68	2	2	1	10	2	1	81	8	60 J P Henderson
Shady Grove	Lawrence	L A Wear	H E Weatherwax	Moulton	50				5	1	1	43		
Shoal Creek	Morgan	J I Stockton	J E Roan	Somerville	29	2	1		1		1	30		Sunday school; no report
Town Creek	Morgan	J E Roan	J A Moore	Neel	63	5	3		4	7		60		
Trinity	Lawrence	J E Roan	J L Wright	Somerville	57	2	4	1	2	1		41		
	Morgan	R T Wear	J N Jackson	Mt. Hope	164	19	2		2	8	1	179		
	Morgan	J I Stockton	B Gillintine	Trinity	50	1	1					50		26 W R Frazier, Trinity

2940 125 108 1 3 100 45 83 2999 101 868

REMARKS.—A number of churches were not represented either by letter or delegates. I have given the statistics of those without letters for last year, so far as the membership was concerned. Some have Sunday-schools I know, but no statistics given. I am satisfied that the membership of the churches is more than is represented here, but I can give only that which I know. Nineteen report Sunday-schools. There are certainly more than this, I know, but they do not report. There are at least six other Sunday-schools.—CLERK.